

Women New Jersey

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs



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Summer 2001

Acting Governor DiFrancesco Participates in Women's History Month

In recognition of Women's History Month, Acting Governor Donald DiFrancesco addressed students at Woodland Elementary School in Warren Township on the many contributions New Jersey women have made to the world. DiFrancesco also played a "Women's History" trivia game with the students.

The Acting Governor encouraged the students to do their best in school and to continue to learn about New Jersey History and women's history.

DiFrancesco highlighted the accomplishments of New Jersey women throughout history including Mary Philbrook, who was the first woman to be admitted to the New Jersey Bar; Mary Norton, the first Democratic woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives; Virginia Apgar, who created the newborn APGAR test and former Governor Christine Todd Whitman, the first woman to become Governor of New Jersey.

"These accomplishments should remind us that we all have something to contribute, no matter if we are a boy or a girl, a man or a woman. New Jersey is a great state because people of both gen-

continued on page 2



Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco addressing students at Woodland Elementary School.

Outstanding Women of New Jersey

by Dianne Mills McKay, Chair, New Jersey Advisory Commission on the Status of Women

On March 22, the New Jersey Commission on the Status of Women celebrated Women's History Month 2001 with a dinner at Forsgate Country Club in Jamesburg recognizing the accomplishments of some of New Jersey's outstanding women.

Nominated by their county or municipal commissions, 12 women were honored by the State commission for their contributions to improving the status of women. The women receiving 2001 outstanding women awards were:

Karen A. Levin, Atlantic County
Sandra Ruth Pinkerton, Bergen County
Mary A. Prioleau, Burlington County
Habiba Soudan, Camden City
Laurelle A. Cummings, Camden County
Diane E. Marshall, Mercer County
Rebecca Stafford, Monmouth County
Eddie Mae Livingston, City of Newark
Dorothy Marie Wahlers, Ocean County
Janina Patrus, Salem County
Denise Coyle, Somerset County
Mary P. Ruotolo, Union County

The Commission also presented the Connie Woodruff award, named in honor of the late Connie Woodruff, who was the first Chairperson of the New Jersey Advisory Commission on the Status of Women. This year's recipient was Dr. Vera King Farris, President of Richard Stockton College. Dr. Farris also served as this year's Keynote speaker on the topic "Women: 'Rules of the Game' in the 21st century." With eloquence, wisdom and humor, Dr. Farris focused on three major trends which will impact women's lives in the 21st century: greater longevity, rapidly changing technology and demographic changes. The audience was touched and inspired by Dr. Farris' speech. Her focus set the tone for celebration and reflection about the current accomplishments and the future promise for women.



NJ Advisory Commission on the Status of Women Chair, Dianne Mills McKay and Dr. Vera Farris.

IN THIS ISSUE

PAUSDALE GROUNDBREAKING 2

SOCIAL SECURITY LAUNCHES A
WEBSITE FOR WOMEN 4

NJ WOMEN VETERANS MEMORIAL... 6

CALENDER OF EVENTS BACK COVER

Remember: Women's Equality Day - August 26, 2001

Pausdale Groundbreaking

By Elizabeth Cox

On April 9, 2001, the Alice Paul Centennial Foundation held a Groundbreaking Ceremony marking the beginning of the next phase in the restoration of Paulsdale in Mount Laurel. Paulsdale was the home of suffragist Alice Paul. Alice Paul was a national leader in the fight for women's suffrage, and subsequently for the passage of an Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. In 1991, Paulsdale was designated a national historic landmark. In 1999, the President's Commission recognized it during the Celebration of Women in American History as one of the six national historic sites "whose visionary leaders are at once saving American treasures and bringing women into the mainstream of American history."

When completed in the summer of 2002, Paulsdale's exterior will have been

restored to appear as it did during Alice Paul's early years, 1885-1920. The interior will be designed as a leadership center for women and girls, celebrating women's history through leadership, heritage and preservation programs. The completed renovation will enable the Alice Paul Centennial Foundation to conduct on the premises their program for eighth-grade girls, the workshop, "Share Your Voice," and a ten-week leadership program using women leaders of the past to explore various styles of leadership. In addition, the facilities may be used by women's organizations to hold workshops, seminars, and retreats.

Monies for the restoration of Paulsdale come in the form of a matching grant from the New Jersey Historic Trust with a grant

of \$478,000. The matching funds were provided by Bally's Park Place Casino (through the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority) in the amount of \$328,000, and the Heritage Investment Program in the amount of \$150,000. In addition, State Senator Diane Allen played a key role in obtaining \$180,000 state funding for Paulsdale through grants from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division on Women, and the New Jersey Department of State.

For further information, contact Rhonda Carboni, President, Alice Paul Centennial Foundation, Inc., Box 1376, Mount Laurel, New Jersey, 08054, telephone (856) 231-1865, fax: (856) 231-4223, website: www.alicepaul.org, e-mail: info@alicepaul.org.



The Urban Women's Center (CCOEO) Annual Luncheon Banquet & Graduation

By Geraldine Taylor

On Wednesday May 9, 2001, the Urban Women's Center, Camden County Office on Economic Opportunity (CCOEO) hosted an Annual Luncheon Banquet and Graduation Ceremony, which was held at the beautiful Harbor League Club in Camden, New Jersey. At the luncheon women were presented with awards and certificates for their leadership roles and successes.

Gwen Spann, a Division on Women employee and Program Manager for the Urban Women's Center had the opportunity to give words of congratulations to the graduating class. Ms. Spann also thanked Mr. Arnold Byrd, Ms. Barbara Wanzer, Ms. Geraldine Taylor, Ms. Arlene Almonte and Ms. Dalia Gonzales for their support and dedication to the women that are being served within the community by the Urban Women's Center. Ms. Spann told how the Urban Women's Center has increased their computer classes due to an overwhelming response from clients.

Computer classes ran on a daily basis in the A.M. and P.M. Mr. Leland Butler, Board President along with Mr. Arnold Byrd, Executive Director, presented the women who completed the basic computer classes with certificates at the annual luncheon.



Outstanding Women...continued

ders and from all sorts of backgrounds have tried their hardest and shared their talent," said DiFrancesco.

The Acting Governor also presented the school with a proclamation declaring March 2001 Women's History Month in the State of New Jersey.

Women: New Jersey

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101 South Broad Street
PO Box 801
Trenton, NJ 08625-0801
(609) 292-8840

Acting Governor: Donald T. DiFrancesco

Commissioner: Jane M. Kenny

Division Director: Linda B. Bowker

Deputy Director:

Deirdre Webster Cobb

Co-Editors: M. Theresa Daniels

and Pat Richardson

Staff: Dianne Ciesla,

Elizabeth Cox, Andrea Fleisch

Fiscal Coordinator: Sonya Martin

Layout and Graphics:

Melissa R. Young





Elaine Feller Among Founding Mothers Honored

By Theresa Daniels

The Women's Center of Monmouth County celebrated its 25th Anniversary on April 5th at the Ocean Place Conference Resort in Long Branch. Honored at the celebration were eight of the founders of the Women's Resource and Survival Center, the organization that evolved into the Women's Center. Among the founders was the Division on Women's own Elaine Feller.

Elaine is the Supervisor of the Support, Education, Employment and Training Unit at the Division on Women. The unit evaluates, develops and Supervises 24 Displaced Homemaker, Hispanic and Urban Women Centers throughout New Jersey.

Being a victim of rape and domestic violence, Elaine used her personal hardships, knowledge and experiences to the betterment of women.

Elaine joined the National Organization for Women in 1970. She became Chair of the Marriage and Divorce Task Force and its hotline, while providing sole support for her two children. She and members of the task force sheltered battered women in their homes before the Women's Center was founded.

Elaine was one of several women from NOW who started the first federally funded Women's Center in the United States, the Women's Resource and Survival Center (Women's Center of Monmouth County.) She was the second woman hired and subsequently became the Director of Client Services.

Elaine was also involved in writing the first proposal for rape crisis funding for the Women's Resource and Survival Center.

For the last 30 years, Elaine has committed her adult life to the health, welfare, growth and advancement of women.

*Congratulations to Carol Vasile on receiving
the Department of Community Affairs'
Co-Worker Award for 2001!
A Congratulations also goes to Patricia
Richardson for her 25 years of service at DCA.*

New Jersey Women Veterans Memorial

By Theresa Daniels

The New Jersey Advisory Committee for Women Veterans has formed a committee to erect a Memorial for New Jersey veterans of all wars and conflicts. There are 28,000 women veterans in the State of New Jersey.

The Memorial will be erected along the walkway at the Brig. General William C. Doyle Veterans Cemetery in Wrightstown. Anne Chase, a Korean-era veteran, created the Memorial with the words, "The Spirit of the American Woman Veteran." Her inspiring design features a five-sided obelisk rising from a round base. Each branch of service will be represented on one side of the obelisk. At the top will stand the "Minute Woman" statue, designed by World War II veteran Dorothy M. Dempsey.

The Advisory Committee has started its fundraising efforts. Contributions can be made payable to NJ Advisory Committee Memorial Fund and mailed to Robin Goodrich, 29 Chestnut Street, Carteret, NJ 07008.

If you would like to get more information about the Memorial or about the New Jersey Advisory Committee for Women Veterans, please call Anna Hoffman, Chairwoman at (908) 534-4617.

Social Security Launches a Website for Women

By Jacqueline Kopanycia
District Manager, Social Security
Administration in Trenton

Are you interested in information specifically tailored to women's issues? If so, you may be interested in a new website created by the Social Security Administration - For Women. This website has been designed to address issues that tend to impact women more than men. Although it is true that Social Security benefits and coverage are the same for both men and women, there are some situations that women are more likely to encounter because of their different work patterns and lifestyles. Those differences have a direct impact on the payment of Social Security benefits.

At the For Women website, you'll find basic information pertinent to women. We've made information available on Retirement, Survivors and Disability Insurance, Supplemental Security Income and Medicare benefits. By simply selecting one or more categories that best describe your stage in life, you can find our information and learn about resources available on:

- How marriage affects a woman's benefits
- How a woman earns protection for her family
- What happens when a women's marital status changes
- How she can change her name on Social Security records
- Her rights as a divorced wife
- How to get your newborn Social Security number, and
- Special Employment situations

For Women also allows you to link to other federal agency websites for women such as the Department of Labor's Women's Bureau, the Department of Health and Human Service's Women's Health and the White House's Federal Programs and Resources for Women and Families.

So whether you are a young woman, middle aged, or elderly, whether you work now, have worked in the past, or never worked at all; be sure to visit For Women at www.ssa.gov/women.

Publications on Violence Against Women

By Carol Vasile

The Division's Office on the Prevention of Violence Against Women (OPVAW) provides literature on violence against women at no charge to the public. These publications range from information for middle and high school students on sexual harassment to palm cards on legal rights and options for sexual assault victims to court procedures for restraining orders for domestic violence victims. New publications are regularly developed and existing ones are updated when necessary. Some of the publications are available in Spanish such as Domestic Violence: The Law and You, the Domestic Violence Hotline poster and the Domestic Violence Palm Card. Additional publications are targeted for translation into Spanish on an ongoing basis.

Publications may be ordered in quantities of up to 250 per item with exceptions made for information being disseminated to students, and orders may take between three to six weeks for delivery. Since the staff distributes between 10,000 and 15,000 pieces of literature in any month, the office tries to fill orders as quickly as possible. To order publications, call the Division on Women at 609-292-8840 and request a Publication Order Form. Orders forms may be faxed (609-633-6821) or mailed to the Division on Women at 101 South Broad Street, PO Box 801, Trenton, NJ, 08625.

To the right is a list of available publications.

Brochures

- ✍ Crossing the Line: Student-to-Student Sexual Harassment in High School
- ✍ Crossing the Line: Student-to-Student Sexual Harassment in Middle School
- ✍ Dating Violence – There's No Excuse for Abuse
- ✍ Domestic Violence Procedures in County Court
- ✍ Domestic Violence: The Law and You (English)
- ✍ Domestic Violence: The Law and You (Spanish)
- ✍ No Means No: Information for Teens About Sexual Violence
- ✍ Sexual Harassment (workplace)
- ✍ Stalking in New Jersey

Posters

- ✍ Domestic Violence Hotline (English)
- ✍ Domestic Violence Hotline (Spanish)

Palm Cards

- ✍ Domestic Violence (English)
- ✍ Domestic Violence (Spanish)
- ✍ Sexual Violence (English)

Fact Sheet

- ✍ Domestic Violence Shameful Facts

Bookmarker

- ✍ Rights and Responsibilities in a Dating Relationship

FIRST CLASS

Calendar of Events

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs
Division on Women
101 South Broad Street
PO Box 801
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0801

Aug. 19
11:45 am, Division on Women and the NJ Advisory Commission on the Status of Women Women's Equality Day event, Mercer County Water-front Park, Trenton. \$17 per person. Call (609) 292-8840 for more details.
Aug. 26
Women's Equality Day
Oct.
Breast Cancer Awareness and Domestic Awareness Month
Oct. 8
10 am - 4 pm, NJ Advisory Committee for Women Veterans' Luncheon. Details to follow.
Nov. 8
6:30 pm, Division on Women, NJ Advisory Commission on the Status of Women and the NJ Advisory Committee for Women Veterans' Dinner honoring Women Veterans. Details to follow.

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